

Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the paragraph appearing at page 65, lines 17-29 with the following amended paragraph:

The above Examples also identify a novel antibody-binding region on CD9 that is identified by mAb7. This is the first identification of an epitope region that has functional activity. The region was identified using peptides composed of the amino acid sequences ¹³⁵K-V¹⁷² and ¹⁶⁸P-I¹⁸⁵ (peptides 5b ~~and 6~~ and 6a, respectively). These two peptides individually blocked mAb7 binding to soluble CD9 and to CD9 on intact cells as well as reversed the adhesive phenotype of CD9-CHO cells. These data infer that the common amino acid sequence PKKDV (SEQ ID NO: 3) is likely an essential part of the mAb7 epitope. Since mAb7 is a conformation-sensitive antibody and binds to CD9 only under nonreduced conditions, these results indicate that the solubilized CD9 and peptides 5b and 6a assumed an epitope-competent conformation similar to that of CD9 expressed on the intact cell surface. Interestingly, peptide 6a contains part of the 20 amino acid sequence ¹⁷³L-K¹⁹² that is critical for CHO cell adhesion and pericellular fibronectin matrix assembly.